



## THE ALEX PETERSEN MEMORIAL AWARD FOR YOUNG LEADERS IN FOREIGN POLICY

### Essay Competition for A-Level Students

**Deadline for submission extended:  
June 9th 12:00pm midday**

**Deadline for submission:**

All essays must be submitted to [london@ypfp.org](mailto:london@ypfp.org) by 23:00h June 5th 2021! Participants need to include their full name, age, school, chosen Churchill quote and contact details (email and phone number).  
Winners will be announced on June 10th

#### The Essay!

The Topic of the essay competition is current affairs in foreign policy. Participants can choose one of the three Churchill quotes listed below to find inspiration for their essays. You need to be 16-17 years old and studying for your A-Levels. We want you to be creative and original, with the ability to give your educated opinion and reasonable analysis of a foreign policy problem in 750 words max. Participants will be judged on their critical thinking and writing skills. The essays will be op-ed style pieces or policy analyses, appropriate for publication in foreign policy magazines.

#### Who for?

In order to promote and incentivise young people to pursue a career in foreign policy, YFPF London, sponsored by King's College London and the International Churchill Society, is hosting an essay competition for A-Level students (aged 16-17). Young people from underrepresented groups are specially encouraged to participate

#### Why take part?

Three prize winners:

First prize (one winner) will receive a placement at the prestigious Pre-University Online Summer School (5th - 16th July) International Relations module with full scholarship covering the £2050 tuition fee and £60 registration fee. Two years free membership to YFPF Global and a publication in an international foreign policy magazine.

*\*To be offered a place on the programme, the student must meet minimum academic and English language requirements, and submit a personal statement (500 words max) explaining their motivations for applying to the programme. Due to the tight deadline, we advise you have a prepared statement as once the winner is announced, they need to be registered on KCL's admissions system by 23:00h on June 11th 2021.*

➤ **KCL Course:** [www.kcl.ac.uk/short-courses/pre-university-international-relations-online](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/short-courses/pre-university-international-relations-online)  
Runner up (two winners) will receive £200 cash prize and a publication in *Charged Affairs*, YFPF foreign policy magazine.

Honourable Mention (four winners) will have their essays featured in YFPF and King's blogs, official newsletters and across all social media channels.

#### Quotes!

**'Statesmen are not called upon only to settle easy questions. These often settle themselves. It is where the balance quivers, and the proportions are veiled in mist, that the opportunity for world-saving decisions presents itself.'**

[Winston S. Churchill, 1948, *The Second World War*, Vol 1, p.284.]

**'In politics when you are in doubt what to do, do nothing ... when you are in doubt what to say, say what you really think.'**

[Winston S. Churchill, 1905, *North-West Manchester* (cited in Langworth, *Churchill: In His Own Words*)]

**'Never give in—never, never, never, never, except to convictions of honour and good sense.'**

[Winston S. Churchill, 1969, *Never Give In!: The Best of Winston Churchill's Speeches*]



THE INTERNATIONAL  
CHURCHILL SOCIETY



## BACKGROUND

### YFPF

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS IN FOREIGN POLICY IS A UNITED STATES NONPROFIT, NONPARTISAN ORGANIZATION THAT WORKS TO TRAIN THE NEXT GENERATION OF FOREIGN POLICY LEADERSHIP. THE GROUP WAS FOUNDED BY JOSHUA MARCUSE IN 2004 AND CURRENTLY CONSISTS OF CHAPTERS IN TORONTO, NEW YORK, DC (HQ), BRUSSELS AND LONDON. YFPF'S MEMBERSHIP SPANS 80 COUNTRIES AND A NETWORK OF OVER 20,000 NEXTGEN PROFESSIONALS. MEMBERS ARE CAREFULLY SCREENED AND SELECTED FROM A BROADER POOL OF APPLICANTS AND EACH PAY MEMBERSHIP DUES TO SUPPORT YFPF'S PROGRAMMING AND SERVICES. MEMBERS ARE DRAWN FROM A VARIETY OF GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, NONPROFITS, MEDIA GROUPS, GRADUATE PROGRAMS, AND CORPORATIONS THAT SPAN A DIVERSE ARRAY OF SECTORS.

### YFPF LONDON

YFPF LONDON WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2006 BY ALEX PETERSEN, AS THE SECOND BRANCH OF THE YFPF ORGANISATION, AND HAS SINCE GROWN INTO A THRIVING COMMUNITY OF YOUNG PROFESSIONALS WITH AN INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, WHO ARE LIVING AND WORKING IN THE UK'S CAPITAL. YFPF LONDON BRINGS TOGETHER UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS, CIVIL SERVANTS, PRIVATE SECTOR CHAMPIONS, ENTREPRENEURS, FOREIGN POLICY EDITORS AND GRASSROOTS ADVOCATES WHO WORK RELENTLESSLY TO CREATE CONTENT OF THE HIGHEST STANDARDS FOR OUR MEMBERS.

TO LIST SOME RECENT EXAMPLES, PROGRAMMING HAS INCLUDED HOSTING THE FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT OF KOSOVO, DR VJOSA OSMANI; CHATHAM HOUSE'S DR CATHERINE FIESCHI; THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ARAB INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN, DR LINA ABIRAFEH; THE CHAIR OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, TOM TUGENDHAT MP, AND UK FORMER SECRETARY OF DEFENCE, PENNY MORDAUNT MP.

### ALEX PETERSEN

VERY TRAGICALLY ALEX PETERSEN, FOUNDER OF YFPF LONDON, WAS KILLED IN JANUARY 2014 IN A BOMB ATTACK IN KABUL, AFGHANISTAN.

ALEX WAS A SENIOR ACD RESEARCHER AT THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES IN LONDON. HE WAS ALSO SECTION DIRECTOR, AMERICAS AT THE HENRY JACKSON SOCIETY AND ON THE EDITORIAL BOARD OF MILLENNIUM: JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES. IN 2006, HE BECAME A RESEARCHER AT THE CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES IN WASHINGTON DC AND A VISITING SCHOLAR AT THE GEORGIAN FOUNDATION FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES IN TBILISI. HE HAS HELD RESEARCH ASSISTANT POSITIONS AT THE KING'S COLLEGE LONDON DEPARTMENT OF WAR STUDIES AND THE WESTERN POLICY CENTER, AS WELL AS AN INTERNSHIP AT THE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS. HIS COMMENTARY AND ANALYSIS REGULARLY APPEARED IN NEWSPAPERS AND JOURNALS IN THE U.S., EUROPE, THE CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA. HE WAS PURSUING A PHD IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AT THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS, AND RECEIVED HIS BA IN WAR STUDIES WITH FIRST CLASS HONORS FROM KING'S. IN ALEX'S MEMORY, THE PETERSEN-PSALIDA FAMILY AND DONORS HAVE ESTABLISHED THE ALEXANDROS PETERSEN SCHOLARSHIP FOR MSc STUDENTS AT KING'S.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COMPETITION, PLEASE CONTACT US ON [LONDON@YFPF.ORG](mailto:LONDON@YFPF.ORG), WITH THE SUBJECT LINE "THE ALEX PETERSEN MEMORIAL AWARD FOR YOUNG LEADERS IN FOREIGN POLICY".